

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T USNATO 2304

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 91998

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR

1. ON APRIL 25 IN ABSENCE OF SYG LUNS AMB BRUSE MET WITH ACTING SYG PANSO TO BRIEF HIM ON US VIEWS TOWARD SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. AMBASSADYR BRUCE DREW ON STATE 91998 DURING DISCUSSION AND GAVE PANSO A COPY OF IMPORTANT POINTS FOR HIS (AND SYG LUNS') FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

2. BRUCE OPENED CONVERSATION BY STATING US BELIEF THAT ALLIES IN COMING WEEKS SHOULD ONCE AGAIN CONSIDER SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO AND HOW TO DEEPEN IT. BRUCE STATED HIS UNDERSANDING OF ALLIED ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN, BUT STRESSED SPAIN'S IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEGINNING TO INDICATE TO THE SPANISH, AS WELL AS TO ALLIED PUBLICS, THE POSSIBILITY FOR A FUTURE SPANISH ROLE IN THE ALLIANCE.

3. PANSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE SOUNDNESS OF US THINKING, BUT SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED NO CHANGE AT NATO IN THE ALLIES' LONG-STANDING RELUCTANCE TOWARD CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH SPAIN. HE SAID THAT IF SPAIN WANTS CONCRETE DEFENSE ASSISTANCE FROM NATO IT WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT, PROVIDED IT IS KEPT OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE, BUT IF SPAIN WANTS SOME SORT OF PUBLIC RECOGNITION

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TION WITH SPAIN. HE SAID THAT IF SPAIN WANTS CONCRETE DEFENSE ASSISTANCE FROM NATO IT WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT, PROVIDED IT IS KEPT OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE, BUT IF SPAIN WANTS SOME SORT OF PUBLIC RECOGNITION

IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. HE EMPHASIZED QUOTE OFFICIAL NATO RELATIONS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION ARE IMPOSSIBLE END QUOTE. IN THE LONG-RANGE, (I.E. POST-FRANCO PERIOD) PANSÁ ADDED, CLOSER RELATIONS SHOULD BE MUCH EASIER. PANSÁ SUGGESTED THAT CERTAIN UNPUBLICIZED INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE NOW SUCH AS VISITS BY SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHES TO SHAPE.

4. PANSÁ SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE

SPANISH TO SEND OBSERVERS TO NATO MANEUVERS, BUT COULD NOT SEE HOW SPAIN COULD PARTICIPATE IN ANY NATO MANEUVERS OR EXERCISES WITHOUT BEING A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE. HE DESCRIBED SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AS A QUOTE ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY UNQUOTE UNTIL THE SITUATION IN SPAIN CHANGED.

5. PANSÁ ASKED IF THE US WAS RAISING THIS SUBJECT AGAIN BECAUSE IT THOUGHT SHG LUNS COULD DO SOMETHING MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAD. BRUCE SAID NO AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF LUNS' WILLINGNESS TO DRAW THE ALLIES' ATTENTION TO SPAIN'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN ALLIANCE DEFENSE PLANS. PANSÁ SAID THAT HE AND SYG LUNS STOOD READY TO HELP IF THERE WAS ANYTHING QUOTE IN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY UNQUOTE THAT THE US THOUGHT HE OR SYG LUNS COULD DO TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO.

6. BRUCE THEN DREW PANSÁ'S ATTENTION TO THE FOUR POSSIBILITIES FOR STEPS TOWARD A SPANISH/NATO RELATIONSHIP CONTAINED IN PARA 8 REFTL. PANSÁ NOTED THEM AND SAID THAT HE AND SYG LUNS WOULD GIVE THEM CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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